the India-China Joint Working Group (JWG) the two sides continued dis» cussions aimed at arriving at a (fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the India-China boundary question. They also held dis-cussions on the implementation of the Agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquility along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas, which was signed during Prime Minister's visit to China on September 7, 1993.

During the discussions the two sides noted with satisfaction that the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) was peaceful and that oonfid-erids building measures already in place were working well. The two sides exchanged views on further confidence building measures and agreed in principle that additional points for meetings between the border personnel of the two countries will be established. Specific details regarding these additional points will be worked out in the India-China Expert Group. The two sides also took note of the considerable progress made at the first two sessions Of the Expert Group. The$_v$ noted that the Expert Group had reached agreement on its work regulations. The leaders of the two delegations directed the Expert Group to continue to adopt a positive and constructive approach in its future work.

The two sides also took this opportunity to exchange views on all aspects of India-China relations. Both sides expressed happing at the steadv and perceptible improvement in bilateral ties and expending cooperation between the two countries. They reiterated their commitment to maintain this positive trend. The two sides expressed satisfaction at the fmalisation of the Agreement on avoidance of double taxation. Agreements on banking relation** and co-operation in the area of health and mcdicjltes we. also being finalised. "*The tv*P sides also noted with satisfaction the opening of Shipfeila ronte in Himachal Pradesh for border trade and agreed to carry out a joint study for improving the existing facilities and opening additional routes for Kailash Manasarovar Pilgrimage .

Views were also exchanged on regional and global issue of mutual interest. There was a convergence of positions (on several ^international topics.

US Document on Kashmir

173. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK; SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has *"been* drawn to the news-item captioned "US Documents sees 'Jihad' links in J-K-" appearing in the Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated June-US, 1994.

(b) if so, what are the facts thereof;

(c) what i_3 the reaction of Government thereto; and

(d) what steps have been taken or proposed to be taken to counternance Pakistan's reported perfidy in Kashmir and the potentially dangerous ramifications arising therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA> (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A report entitled "The Kashmir Connection" prepared by the Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare, of the Mouse Republican Research Committee, US House of Representatives documents Pakistan's role in international terrorism and it* profound ramifications for India. This non-official report states that pupoorters of Islamist causes, put Kashmir high on their list of Jihads to be fought. republican Congress man, Bill McCollum While focusing

attention on Pakistan's role in aiding and abetting terrorism in Kashmir introduced the report into the US Congressional record on Jiun$_0$ 22, 1994.

(c) Government have consistently maintained that Pakistan's support to terrorism and subversion directed against India is continuing. Pakistan ha$_s$ been training Kashmiri militants, providing them with arm$_s$ and financial support and actively assisting them to infiltrate scross the L-OC into J & K. Government have and will continue to apprise the international community of the support being extended by Pakistan $^+$o subversion and terrorism directed against India.

(d) Government have intensified surveillance and petrolling along the border/LQC to prevent infiltration, nrnent remain vigilant about fies detrimental to national se. 1 take all measures to safe-*?'*- -d it.

Indo-Pak relations

174. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFPAIPS be pleased to state:

(a) the various factors responsible for the deteriorating Indo-Pak relations;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to improve Indo-Pak relations;

(c) if so, the steps taken in that regard during the last six months; and

(d) the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN TIiF MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA):

(s) Pakistan's continued support to sUfewrskm and terrorism against India.

5tf« concerted campaign t$_o$ in'.ernatjonallse K"sh$^{mlr\ issae\ and\ itn\ hostlle}$ p^oaganda directed against India in violation of the Simla Agreement cause tensions and impede good neighbourly relations between, the two countries. The incidents of harassment of Indian diplomats based in Islamabad and Karachi have further vitiated the atmosphere of bilateral relations. The restrictive visa regime for Indian nationals adopted by Pakistan has adversely affected pcople-to-people contacts between India rnd Pakistan.

(b) to (d) Government are committed to resolve all differences with Pakistan peacefully and through bilateral negotiations within the framework cF the Simla Agreement.

Pursuan to the Seventh round of India-Pakistan Foreign Secretary level talks at Islamabad from 1-3 January, 1894, Government forwarded to Pakis tan on 24 January, 1994 six Non. 'Papers >1ontcningi specific, and con structive suggestions on Siachen. Sir Creek agreement on maintenance of peace and tranquility along the LOG, Tulbal Navigation Project, ad ditional Confidence Building Measures *F*4* India-Pakistan Joint Commis sion,

On March 21, 1994 Government once again urged Pakistan to consider the Indian proposals with sincerity oi purpose as they could form the basis of a comprehensive and meaningful f-Ualoque and suggested that the Eighth Roonrt of Foreign Secretery level talks rnay be resumed either in New rwibi n" in Islamabad. Pakistan's resnon?f is awaited.

In dp .'Russia" rreenient on debt settlement

175. DR. MHRU MANOHAR JOSHI:
8HF-T TfWWCT NATH CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

fa) -he important oojnrs discussed with Russian Government durine.